

## BRIEFS

### LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT GARRITY JOINS FORMA

IRVINE, Calif. — FORMA, a planning and landscape architecture firm based here, has hired Mark Garrity as a director and landscape architect. Garrity is a licensed landscape architect with more than 15 years of experience in golf course and hotel/resort landscape architectural design. His range of experience also includes management of an overseas office in Bangkok, where he completed numerous large-scale resort and golf course projects in Indonesia and Thailand. They include Blue Lagoon, a master-planned resort community in Pattaya, Thailand, and Emerald One, a golf resort and clubhouse complex in Jakarta.



Mark Garrity

### RYANGOLF ADDS TWO IN FLORIDA

DEERFIELD BEACH, Fla. — RyanGolf has landed two new construction projects, both in Florida. U.S. Home Corp. has selected RyanGolf to build an 18-hole Arthur Hills-designed layout in Bradenton, to be called The Harborage Golf Club. Completion is scheduled for late summer of this year. In addition, developer Gulf Bay Group has awarded RyanGolf the construction contract for The Creek Course, also designed by the Hills firm. The Creek layout, unfolding in Naples, will feature 16 lakes, rock bridges and nature preserves. It is expected to be finished by October.

### FIRST TEE PROJECT UNDER WAY IN KANSAS

BONNER SPRINGS, Kan. — Kansas City junior golfers will be the beneficiaries of a new First Tee facility being developed adjacent to the 18-hole Sunflower Hills Golf Course, west of Kansas City. Joe Louis Barrow, Jr., national director of the First Tee program, presented a check for \$135,000 to Tom Watson and the Junior Golf Foundation of Greater Kansas City toward development of the facility at the TD Waterhouse Championship, a Senior PGA Tour event. Kansas City-based architect Craig Schreiner is donating his design services for the facility, which will feature extensive teaching and practice areas.

## Dramatic Doonbeg takes shape on Irish coast

By JAY FINEGAN

DOONBEG, Ireland — Set hard by the Atlantic Ocean on the rugged, windswept coast of southwestern Ireland, Greg Norman's new Doonbeg Golf Club appears destined to match up well to its two fabled neighbors, Ballybunion and Lahinch.

The links layout, sprawling over a mile and a half of beachfront, is unfolding amid a dramatic combination of huge dunes, crashing surf, and a landscape of extravagant gorse and greenery.

Doonbeg is a joint development of Landmark National, of Upper Marlboro, Md., and Kiawah Resort Associates, of Kiawah Island, S.C. The two companies have previously collaborated on high-profile courses. As the major financial partner, the Kiawah group will hold title to the property.

Norman, winner of two British Open titles, is the lead designer, although the design was basically a matter of blazing an 18-hole trail through a nearly perfect linksland. "On the majority of fairways, we literally mapped out where we wanted to go and just brought out lawn mowers," said Bill Norton, public relations director



The first hole at Greg Norman's Doonbeg is framed by the dunes.

for Kiawah Resort Associates.

A soft opening is planned for the fall, with regular play slated to begin in spring 2002.

### SUPERLATIVES FLYING

Superlatives start to fly when anyone associated with Doonbeg talks about the project.

"It's like the Grand Canyon," said Charlie Arrington, Kiawah's director of design and planning. "You can see all the pictures you want, but you can't really experience the depth and emotion until you see it. Doonbeg is that type of site. It

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## New 'laboratory course' under way in Nebraska

By GARY BURCHFIELD

NEBRASKA CITY, Neb. — The National Arbor Day Foundation has teamed up with golf course builder Landscapes Unlimited and Arnold Palmer Golf Course Design to build a "laboratory-type" course adjoining Arbor Day Farm on the outskirts of Nebraska City.

According to Landscapes Unlimited's CEO Bill Kubly, the new ArborLinks Golf Course will truly be a practical testing laboratory for golf course design and construction. "We want to demonstrate that you can build a great golf course at reasonable cost, so that more people can afford to play, and incorporate sound environmental features in the process," Kubly said.

While there has been a lot of discussion about golf course contributions to the natural environment, little hard data has ever been collected. The partners involved in ArborLinks aim to change that. Even before construction started last fall, Landscapes Unlimited specialists were taking soil samples across the 300-acre course area and water samples from Table Creek, which runs through the course. Soil and water samples will be taken periodically throughout the construction process and after the layout is completed. Samples will be analyzed at the University of Nebraska's turfgrass laboratory in Lincoln.



Arnold Palmer on site with Landscapes Unlimited's vice president of operations, Brad Schmidt

### A LIVING LABORATORY

A variety of turf and landscape plantings are being incorporated into the course, ranging from native species to some exotic plants not native to the Plains environment. "We will actually have different 'plant communities' around the golf course," said Kubly. "Not like a patchwork quilt, but aesthetically designed to

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The 7th hole at The Tribute, a 466-yard par-4, is called 'Fin Me Oot'

## Tripp Davis puts wee bit o' Scotland in Texas

By JAY FINEGAN

THE COLONY, Texas — Golf course architect Tripp Davis is a huge fan of Scottish golf. He's logged lots of time not only playing Scotland's courses but studying their design. So when American Golf Corp. asked him to build a Scottish links-style course here at The Colony, Davis was more than ready.

"They wanted me to take my 18 favorite Scottish holes and build a course that reflects their influence," Davis said. "The idea was to use it as a marketing tool, and that's where they've gone with it. For me, as an architect, it was a dream project."

The recently opened final product, called The Tribute Golf Club — a tribute to Scottish golf — is challenging but plenty of fun. It checks in at just over 7,000 yards from the tips and 5,352 from short pegs, and it features holes inspired by some of Scotland's most storied courses: St. Andrews, Carnoustie, Royal Troon, Nairn, Prestwick and six others. The Old Course at St. Andrews rates four "appearances," and Carnoustie and Prestwick two apiece.

### BAR MOVED FROM SCOTLAND

To enhance the linksland look on this one-time cotton

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## ArborLinks

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fit in with the overall landscape. Each area will be carefully studied and details documented on how the plantings do and how well each adds to the environmental habitat of the course.

"We will have a true 'living laboratory' with a variety of as many as 40 or 50 themes for golf course planting and design,"

Kubly said. The intent is to have a golf course that establishes new parameters for environmental considerations — one that other designers, horticulturists and superintendents can visit and learn from.

During early planning, input was sought from National Arbor Day Foundation experts as well as arborists from several locales. Tree consultant Chuck Stewart of Urban Forest Management

Inc., in Chicago, added his expertise during the planning meetings. Most of the native trees already in the area will be left; some will be moved. "We'll use a tree spade to move some good-sized trees to new areas, and document how larger, naturally grown trees handle being moved," Kubly added.

About half the dirt has been moved so far and half the holes are already shaped, according to

Landscapes Unlimited project coordinator Dave Truttman. Plans call for construction to be completed this fall and the course to open for play next spring.

### PALMER DONATING SERVICES

Palmer Course Design is donating its design services to the project. Palmer Course Design's vice president and managing director Erik Larsen and design associate Kory Williams are directing the design work.

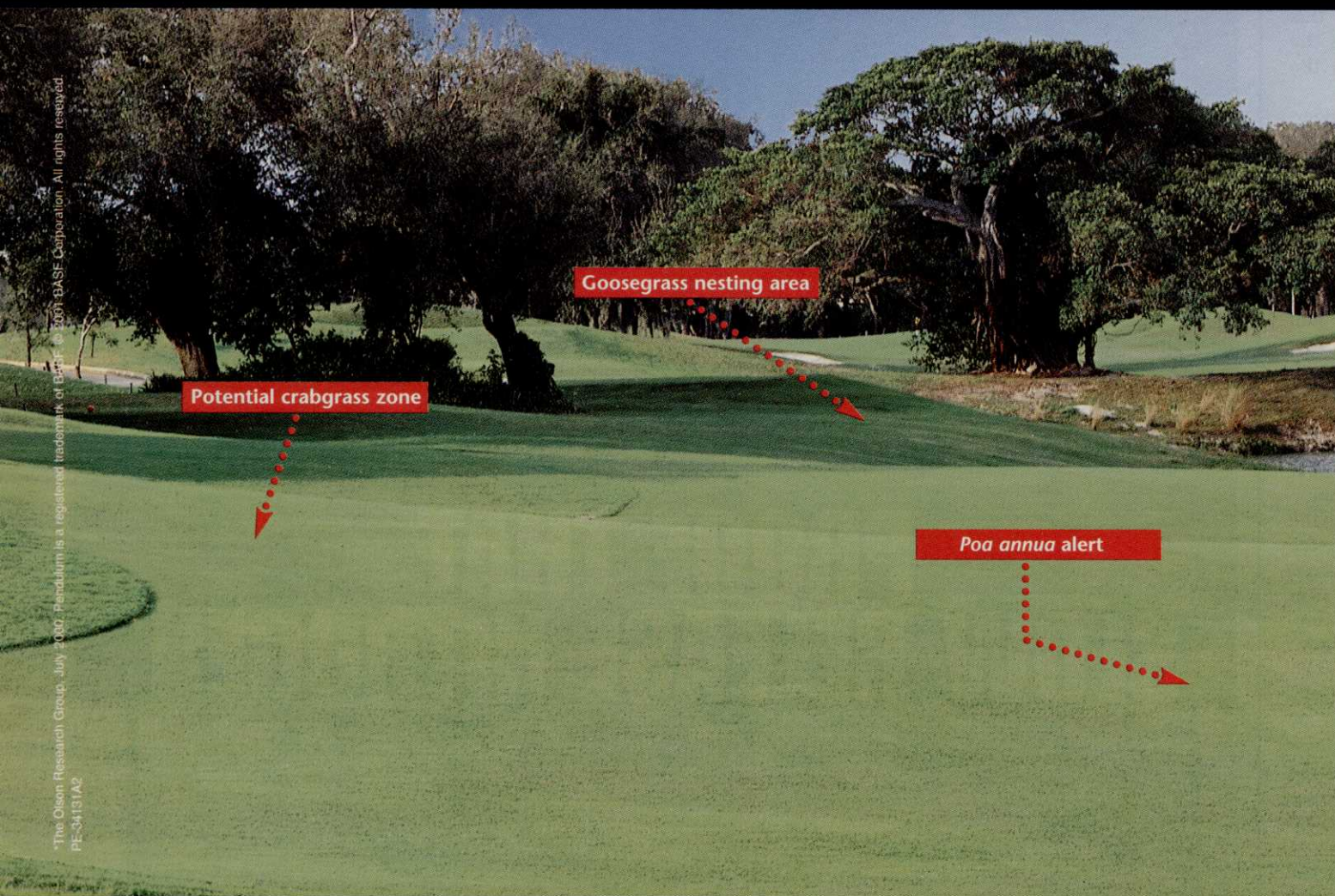
"We expect ArborLinks to become a classroom for everybody in the golf business, as well as naturalists who just want to see how a golf course can enhance the environment," Larsen said.

The National Arbor Day Foundation is leasing the property (now unused farmland) and Landscapes Unlimited will own and manage the course.

The University of Nebraska's turfgrass science team has been involved in the design and selection of plant materials, and will be the lead group in analyzing the data collected during and after golf course construction.

According to Kubly, not only are different plant species being evaluated, actual construction techniques will be tested and documented as well. "We intend this project to be a future guide-

## TERMINATION NOT GERMINATION.



*"We expect ArborLinks to become a classroom for everybody in the golf business."*

— Erik Larsen

line for golf construction as well as design," he said. "We're experimenting with different methods for building greens and bunkers, even trying some different products. Plus, we're keeping track of labor hours for each step in the process."

Not only will different grass types be planted and evaluated over the next few years, but different planting techniques will be tested, as well. Some new tree varieties will be seeded, some will be planted as bare rootstock and some as container-grown trees.

"Together with the agroforestry specialists at Arbor Day Farm, we hope to show that small seedlings can catch up to bigger three to four-inch trees in just a few years. This could be a big savings for golf course construction in the future," Kubly said. "Even different irrigation designs will be tested from one part of the course to another."

Kubly said their goal is to bring the new course on stream, including a new clubhouse, for under \$5 million. "Our investment goal is to test construction and environmental best practices on the ArborLinks project, allowing us to make better business and environmental decisions on future projects," he said.

No housing areas are included in the design for ArborLinks. "We believe we can demonstrate that efficient design and build techniques can get a new course built within reasonable cost levels," Kubly added. "And that a well-designed course can contribute to wildlife habitat and the overall environment." ■

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